IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of providing macro mobility management for a mobile node in an access system comprising a plurality of mobile nodes, a first and a second access node serving said mobile nodes within first and second parts of the access system, respectively, at least one first gateway node for interfacing said first part of the access system with external networks, and a first mobility entity which is associated with said at least one first gateway node and arranged to provide macro mobility management routing services to the mobile nodes while registered to the first part of the access system, said method comprising:

establishing a session between one of said plurality of mobile nodes and a second party via said first access node and said first mobility entity;

checking whether there is at least one second mobility entity to which the first access node can establish a connection as an alternative for the first mobility entity and which is more preferred for the first access node in respect of routing than said first mobility entity; and

reacting to said checking by

A) maintaining a connection from said first access node to said first mobility entity if there is no second mobility entity which is more preferred than said first one, and

B) opening new connection from said first access node to said second mobility entity if said more preferred second mobility entity is available, and initiating macro mobility management registration.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising rerouting the session via said second access node in response to a movement of said one of mobile nodes to said second part of the access system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising closing the connection from said first access node to said first mobility entity when said more preferred second mobility entity is available.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said macro mobility management is Internet Protocol-type, or IP-type mobility management, and wherein an agent advertisement message is sent from said second mobility entity to said one mobile node over said new connection, said agent advertisement message enabling said one mobile node to detect a change of attachment point and to initiate mobile IP registration.

5.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) An access system, comprising

a plurality of mobile nodes;

a first and a second access node serving said mobile nodes within first and second parts of the access system, respectively;

at least one first gateway node for interfacing said first part of the access system with external networks;

a first mobility entity which is associated with said at least one first gateway node and arranged to route a connection to any one of said mobile nodes while said mobile node is registered to the first part of the access system;

a mechanism which checks whether there is a second mobility entity which is more preferred in respect of routing than said first mobility entity for said one access node; and

a mechanism which opens a new connection from one of said access nodes to said second mobility entity if said more preferred second mobility entity is available according to said checking,

said mobile node being arranged to detect a change of attachment by means of said new connection and to initiate macro mobility management registration.

11.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An access node for an access system comprising a plurality of mobile nodes, access nodes serving said mobile nodes within respective parts of

the access system, at least two gateway nodes for interfacing the access system with external networks, and at least two mobility entities which are associated with different ones of said at least two gateway nodes and arranged to provide macro mobility management routing services to the mobile nodes while registered to the access system, said access node comprising:

means for checking, when a mobile node having a connection through another access node and a first mobility entity is accessing the system via said access node, whether there is another mobility entity which is more preferred in respect of routing than said first mobility entity, and

means responsive to said checking means for opening a new connection to said preferred other mobility entity if said more preferred other mobility entity is available.

22. (Original) The access node according to claim 21, comprising means for closing a connection to said first mobility entity when said more preferred other mobility entity is available.

23.-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) A packet radio support node for a packet radio access system comprising a plurality of mobile nodes, packet radio support nodes serving said mobile nodes within respective parts of the access system, at least two gateway nodes for interfacing the packet radio access system with external networks, and at least two foreign agents which are associated with different ones of said at least two gateway nodes and arranged to provide macro mobility management routing services to the mobile nodes while registered to the packet radio access system, said packet radio support node comprising:

means for checking, when a mobile node having a connection through another packet radio access node and a first foreign agent is accessing the system via said packet radio access node, whether there is another foreign agent which is more preferred for said packet radio access node in respect of routing than said first foreign agent; and

means responsive to said checking means for opening a new connection to said preferred other foreign agent if said more preferred other foreign agent is available.